

BARRE GAZETTE

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Hospital staff man the front lines



Turley Staff Photo by Melina Bourdeau

As of March 25, throughout Baystate Health, 835 individuals have been tested; 373 have come back negative; 52 positive and 410 are still pending results.

By Dalton Zbierski
and Melina Bourdeau
Staff Writers

While patients fight a war against COVID-19, medical personnel roam the front lines.

Medical professionals at Baystate Hospitals in the region, Cooley Dickinson in Northampton and Holyoke Hospital each face a similar set of issues caused by the pandemic, which are being navigated on a daily basis.

As of March 25, throughout Baystate Health, 835 individuals

have been tested; 373 have come back negative; 52 positive and 410 are still pending results.

Cooley Dickinson had issued 14 positive tests for COVID-19 and was in the process of investigating 92 additional people, as of the same date.

Measures taken thus far

At the Holyoke Medical Center, one patient was being treated for COVID-19 as of March 23, but no nurses were on self-quarantine at that time.

Baystate Medical Center has constructed a temporary rapid

response triage facility outside the Emergency Department as a result of the demands created by the coronavirus pandemic, according to Michelle Holmgren, of Baystate Health. "These are designed to handle some 30 to 40 patients; the triage area will serve as a rapid, initial screening venue for staff to identify those patients of most immediate need."

Neither Holyoke or Cooley Dickinson have transformed its waiting rooms into triage units and both are strictly sticking to protocols handed down by the Center

for Disease Control.

In order to meet the growing number of cases at each hospital, various safety measures have been made.

Inside Cooley Dickinson hospital, visitors have been restricted and many employees have been assigned remote work when possible.

As of Wednesday, March 18, Baystate Health restricted its visitor policy and at this time is not allowing visitors at any Baystate

See HOSPITALS, page 5

Barre has first confirmed COVID-19 case

BARRE – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health notified the Barre Emergency Management Team of the town's first confirmed case of COVID-19.

Barre Fire Chief Robert Rogowski said in a press release dated March 25 the patient is currently being treated by the appropriate medical services and all of the proper protocols are currently being implemented. He said, "I respectfully request that everyone respect the patient's privacy during this time. I understand that many of our residents are extremely concerned about the coronavirus."

He said, "Barre Fire would like to remind everyone that the best thing that you can do is to stay home, stay informed and follow

the guidance that is being put out by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). If you must go out, please maintain your social distancing of at least six feet."

Barre Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Robert Rogowski said, "I would like every resident to know that the Barre Fire/EMS Department, Barre Police Department, Town Administrator, Public Works Department and the Barre Board of Health are working very closely to ensure that all of the necessary actions are being implemented to ensure the safety of the residents and that the town continues to receive the best emergency service possible during this time."

Selectmen postpone town election

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – Selectmen on the recommendation of Barre town clerk Ellen Glidden postponed the annual town election scheduled for Monday, April 6.

Per the governor's orders, the board held a remote meeting using Zoom that allowed public participation via phone and/or computer. Selectman Greg O'Sullivan did not agree to using Zoom for this meeting and did not participate.

Glidden said the state legislature passed a bill that allowed municipalities to postpone elections until June 30 due to COVID-19. She recommended to the board to postpone the election. She participated in a webinar with KP Law on postponing elections. She said the board did not have set a date tonight. She said if the board voted to postpone the election, it would allow the town to have early voting, absentee ballot voting, holding the election in only one precinct and having a reduction of polling hours.

COVID-19 was added as a reason to vote by absentee ballot. She said all absentee ballots already

obtained would be counted. She said voter registration would extend to ten days before the new election date. All ballots for the election will be used at the new election date, but they will show the April 6 date as they were already printed.

She said she had only a few election workers willing to work on April 6. She said the reduced hours, early voting, absentee voting would lower the number of people voting in person and reduce exposure numbers and time for the poll workers. She said the existing elected officials would continue to serve until the election.

Glidden said the process for absentee voting and early voting would be the same as for any other election. She asked that those voting with absentee ballot not lick the envelope, but either glue or tape it shut. Applications for absentee voting were available now and available on the town website.

Selectman chair Matthew Urban said he would put discussion of election details on the agenda for the next meeting Monday, April 6. Glidden said the board needed to

See TOWN ELECTION, page 6

Town center project design to move forward

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – At a virtual meeting of the Town Center Committee, Chair Dan Galante said of the project, "We have a slot; it's 100 percent happening."

He said Mass DOT locked in the town center project for 2023. The project along Rte. 68 included the intersections of Elm and Brigham Streets to Curtis Recreation Field. It involved road reclamation of the northern section, full depth pavement recon-

struction of the southern section, drainage, sidewalks, bicycle path and crosswalks.

Galante said it would be five years this fall that the Town Center Committee first met.

MassDOT ran a public hearing on March 5 where they presented the project and heard public comment. MassDOT highway superintendent Jonathan Gulliver said the \$4.9 million project would receive 80 percent federal funding and 20 percent funding from MassDOT. The \$4.9 million did not include the cost for right of ways. It would

take about 15 months to complete.

The project was at 25 percent design. The engineers would be submitting the 75 percent design in April and the full design in September. Galante said the selectmen would submit an article to fund the 100 percent design work on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. He said MassDOT would be holding a second public hearing in the spring or summer.

Galante said a similar size project \$3 plus million in Leominster will not be ready for its time slot.

He said possibly the Hubbardston project may get moved forward.

The next design plan should show the conduit. The town would be paying for the lighting as it was not included in the project.

Between August of 2020 and May 2021 the town would be contacting property owners on Main Street for rights of way certificates and easements. Galante said there was not much left to do. The northern portion of Rte. 68 bid was awarded and was over budget. The southern section of Rte. 68 was already completed.

COVID-19 affects trial courts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION - By now, the entire region is aware of the many closures and restrictions thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendations to avoid one another, social distance, and to "stay-at-home" if at all possible.

But one thing that has not been as clear to many individuals is how to access a modified court system while the state of emergency is in effect.

Springfield District Court, located on the Robert E. Ireland Courthouse, was closed on March 16 and 17 to allow for deep cleaning of the courthouse. The court and its outlying smaller courts serve most of Hampden County. On Friday, March 20, it was announced a court officer in the superior court had tested positive for coronavirus, and the court was closed for a week. It re-opened on Monday, March 30.

But "re-opened" is a loose term, and the Hampden County District Attorney is operating with limited staff in person at the courthouse.

Judges in all the courts are on a rotation as well to limit their exposure to the public.

The courts are closed through at least April 6, and that closure could extend further with President Donald Trump's recent declaration that social distancing continue through April 30.

According to a message from the Supreme Judicial Court, court appearances are limited to "emergency matters."

"Courts will be closed to the public March 18, 2020 until at least April 6, 2020. The only matters that will be heard in-person in Massachusetts state courthouses are emergency matters that cannot be held by videoconference or telephone. Each of the seven Trial Court departments will define emergency matters for their departments."

"Courthouses will be closed to the public except to conduct emergency hearings that cannot be resolved through a videoconference or telephonic hearing. Clerk's offices shall remain open to the public to accept pleadings and other documents in emergency matters only."

Some judges have held hearings for issues such as restraining orders. However, any non-emergency issues have been deferred or

Spring blooms bring some cheer



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

These miniature daffodils and violas are a welcome sign of spring.

Barre Food Pantry offers drive-through distribution

BARRE - The Barre Food Pantry, located at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., plans to hold their regular grocery distribution Wednesday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, their normal time.

In order to insure a safe level of social distancing for clients and volunteers, this distribution will be "drive-through" style like the one so successfully conducted last Thursday evening, March 19.

However, because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Calling all residents!

Kids, parents, adults, those on the front lines, those at home and everyone in between, Turley Publications wants to share the experiences of all our residents during the COVID-19 emergency. Essays, drawings and photos are all very welcome. Help us document this historic time with your experiences by sending submissions to edowner@turley.com



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See TRIALCOURTS, page 6

News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Barre Transfer Station lists changes

Effective March 21, the Barre Board of Health announces the following changes at the Transfer Station as part of COVID-19 safety measures.

There will be a drop box for payments of bags. Cost is \$20 per sleeve for large bags and \$31.25 per sleeve for small bags. The transfer center will accept cash or check for exact amount. No change will be given. No credit card sales. The transfer center will be only accepting trash and recycling, all other services will be closed until further notice.

Town election postponed

Selectmen voted Monday, March 30 on the recommendation of Town Clerk Ellen Glidden to postpone the annual town election. The election scheduled for Monday, April 6 will be held at a later date to be determined later.

Food pantry distribution

Barre Food Pantry, located at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., plans to hold their regular grocery distribution Wednesday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, their normal time. In order to insure a safe level of social distancing for clients and volunteers, this distribution will be “drive-through” style like the one so successfully conducted last Thursday evening, March 19. However, because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

American Legion Auxiliary


The Post 2 American Legion Auxiliary cancelled its Monday, April 13 meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The team at Canterbury Tails is looking forward to meeting you and your pet. We hope to provide a pleasant and Fear Free experience to both pets and owners.

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canterburytailsware@gmail.com



Mon., Wed., Thurs. 7:30-6pm, Tues. 12-8pm, Fri. 7:30-12 noon
Every Other Saturday 7:30-12

Local farmers hope to provide CSA program

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD – As people drive past local farms on their way to supermarkets that may or may not have enough meat and other foods, farmer Matt Koziol is hoping more folks will think about patronizing local farms.

While he already offers an online store and home delivery for his grass-fed beef, he’s hoping he and other local farmers can work together to offer an early spring community-supported agriculture program, often known as a CSA. People pay a weekly or monthly amount and farms provide a variety of produce, sometimes meat and fruit.

“I’m really excited about the possibility,” said Koziol, who markets under the name Farmer Matt through his farm. “Details and permits have to be worked out with the Board of Health, but if it’s possible we could offer five pounds of beef, five pounds of produce that would produce five meals and a salad.” There will be two-person and four-person CSA boxes if approved.

Other farms, which may participate include Honey Bee Orchards, also in West Brookfield, Walker Farm in New Braintree and West Brookfield, and Misty River View Farm, also in New Braintree.

At Misty River View Farm, they offer eight different flavors of goat and lamb sausage, goose eggs and homemade soap, which is made with Swiss milk, Koziol said and Walker Farm offers animal welfare approved, certified beef.

He is also trying to work with the Board of Health to include farm fresh eggs, as they have specific regulations and protocols that must be met, he said.

“As people are following the state’s direction, more people are going to be staying home,” he said. “This could be an answer for them because we’ll deliver it to their door, they don’t have to go out.”

He said if approved, there customers could request tweaks, such as Honey Bee providing deli meat and cheese, which they offer in their store on Route 9. “That would be the unique aspect of it,” he said.

“The problem with today’s grocery store food chain is it’s set up to provide food just-in-time,” Koziol said, and isn’t prepared to provide so much in such a little time.

The CSAs packages would include sweet potatoes, white potatoes, garlic, onions, celery and pepper, he said.

Different farmers and outlets, such as Honey Bee, can buy certain produce that isn’t being grown locally at wholesalers near Worcester to round out the offerings.

“We would source the vegetables with the least amount of food miles,” he said, such as getting fresh broccoli at wholesalers.

Koziol and other farmers are hoping if this early spring CSA is approved and made available, then they could offer summer CSA boxes together and retain customers from the spring.



Turley Publications Courtesy photo

West Brookfield farmer Matt Koziol is hoping local farmers can offer solutions to supermarket shopping as supplies fluctuate and more people stay home.

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Hubbardston Senior Center update

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until the end of April The eggs will still be available Thursdays at the same time and produce will still be available Wednesdays and Fridays with pickup outside. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

Meal delivering for seniors

MOC home delivered meals will still be delivered. The in house meals at the Hubbardston Senior Center will be pre-packaged and delivered also. Seniors may call the Senior Center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 for more information. The Friends of the Hubbardston Seniors offered to pick up groceries or medicines for seniors. Seniors in need of this service may call Darlene at 774-242-7779. She will make arrangements for someone to pick up and deliver.

Town buildings closure reminder

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until the end of April Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of services remotely. All public safety operations will continue.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of April 6.

Note: There is only Meals on Wheels.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables, fresh fruit, French bread

TUES. – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, peaches, Italian bread

WED. – Chicken cacciatore, gemelli pasta, broccoli, brownie, diet = half piece, pumpernickel bread

THURS. – Baked ham, sour cream and chive mashed potato, roasted vegetables, carrot cake, diet = cream puff, marble rye bread

FRI. – Fish with crumb topping, lemon seasoned rice, Tuscan style vegetables, fruited ambrosia, whole wheat bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barre-news@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Barre American Legion Auxiliary meeting cancelled

BARRE — The scheduled meeting of the Barre American Legion Auxiliary on Monday, April 13 has been cancelled due to the virus crisis we are now facing. At this time that is the only meeting cancelled. Careful consideration will occur as the meeting dates get closer. Please continue social distancing. Stay healthy.





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News of the Towns

Counting turtles



We would love to give you or your kids a fun little project each week.

Starting this week we will be hiding **TURLEY** (the turtle) our new mascot within the paper. Have fun and count how many times you find Turley.

Email your results along with your name, town and turtle count from what paper to edowner@turley.com.

We will post your name and count in the following weeks paper.

Correct answers will be submitted for a monthly drawing and a chance to win a prize.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: All meetings are closed to the public and will be held remotely.

BARRE

Board of Selectmen – April 6 and April 21, both at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – April 7 and April 21 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – April 7 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – April 8 at 7 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – April 9 at 3 p.m.
Board of Health – April 13 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – April 13 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.
Town Administrator Search Committee – April 15 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – April 16 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – June 9 at 6 p.m.

HARDWICK

Council on Aging – April 9 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – April 10 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – April 13, May 11 and June 8 at 5:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – April 13, 27, May 11, May 26 and June 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – April 14 at 6:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – April 21 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Library Trustees – April 2 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – April 4 at 10 a.m.
Conservation Commission – April 7 at 7 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – April 6, April 13 and April 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – April 28 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – April 2 and April 16 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – April 2 and April 16 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – April 6 and April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space & Recreation Committee – April 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Advisory Finance Committee – April 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – April 9 at 7 p.m.
Capital Improvement Planning Committee – April 9 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – April 13 at 10 a.m.
Planning Board – April 23 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – April 7, April 14 and April 28 at 12:45 p.m.

Meals on Wheels COVID delivery precautions and distancing protocol

All Meals on Wheels drivers are practicing new protocols in place for your protection.

Meals on Wheels drivers are wearing a new pair of gloves for each individual delivery and hand sanitizing in between deliveries.

As well drivers are leaving the meal hanging on the doorknob and stepping back a minimum of 6 feet to observe participants retrieving their meal. This is the daily safety check.

If people do not answer the door, standard no-answer procedures go into effect with follow-up phone call.

Please note that Meals on Wheels drivers serving Housing Authority and other large apartment buildings, may be wearing masks for your protection, and theirs.

Stricter protocols may go into place as state and federal guidelines change.

If people have any questions about these protocols please reach out to the Nutrition program at Elders Services of Worcester Area at 508-756-1545, extension 290.

Hardwick

Mandell Hill offers vistas, woodlands



Turley Publications staff photos by Paula Ouimette

Mandell Hill, a property owned by the East Quabbin Land Trust, is a combination of a working farm and woodlands, crisscrossed by iconic New England stone walls. It is located on Barre Road in Hardwick.

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

HARDWICK – Visiting Mandell Hill is a chance to walk on trails through a working farm as well as woodlands, which are rich in birds. The looped trail is a mile and a half long and takes about an hour to complete. There are also some electrified fencing as it is a working farm with a herd of beef cows. Visitors are asked to stay on the trail and dogs are discouraged due to the farm animals and the grassland birds, such as bobolinks and meadowlarks.

“Mandell Hill is a property with a wide loop that is not too steep and not too rocky,” said East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw. “The entrance is wide open farmland, and there are great vistas; you can see Mount Wachusett.”

The EQLT owns the 155-acre tract that belonged to one of Hardwick’s early citizens, the Mandells. Betty Mixter Morss donated the property to the organization. She was part of Hardwick’s world-renowned Mixter family, who introduced scientific farming methods to the town and raised well-known dairy cows for decades. The property also includes the foundation of a Mandell Farm barn.

At times there may be gates blocking the trails as the cows are moved to other pastures to graze, but they are meant to be passed through. It is important for visitors to close the gates behind them. Among the treats the property has in store are grasslands with many birds. The EQLT manages the grasslands, including posting bird houses, to encourage them to settle on the property.

Bobolinks are birds that are attracted to tall grasslands, uncut pastures, overgrown fields and meadows, and have been on the decline since the 1990s, due to changes in farming and a reduction in farmland, according to the Bobolink Project, which works with farmers to keep grasslands



There are plenty of stone walls throughout the Mandell Hill property, showing it has long been a farm property. It was donated to the EQLT by Betty Mixter Morss, whose family once owned the land, including the building that houses organization’s offices on nearby Ridge Road.



There is also a tower from which to watch wildlife, including a wide range of birds, at Mandell Hill.

available to birds. While molting and on migration, bobolinks head to marshes and in agricultural fields.

Maintaining land that is home to bobolinks also helps other declining populations of grassland birds including the Eastern meadowlark, according to the project.

“It’s a great opportunity to be out,” Henshaw said. “We encourage people to use our trails. There is plenty of room to be able to have space amongst those who are using the property. There is plenty of room to step off the path and let others go by.”

It is a working farm property, and that the ecological management is ongoing, and sometimes

visitors will see machinery on the property as that work is done, and there may land clearing activity as well. Henshaw said all work done on the property is part of a strict, long-term management plan in pursuit of the EQLT’s mission of preserving the natural, historical, agricultural and recreational character of the region.

Mandell Hill is intended to be a model of ecologically sensitive, financially profitable and culturally appropriate land use, and is supported with sustainable forestry and other activities such as sugaring.

For more information about the EQLT or its other properties throughout the area, go online to www.eqlt.org.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer

edowner@turley.com



Oakham Congregational cancels April services

The Oakham Congregational Church will not hold Sunday worship services during the month of April to the coronavirus pandemic.

Election information

Town clerk Chris Mardirosian announced the last day to register to vote for the annual town election is Tuesday, April 28. Positions on the ballot include: a two-year term to the board of health; one position each to board of selectmen, board of assessors, board of health, library trustees, cemetery commission and school committee, all three-year terms and a five-year term to planning board. Nomination papers may be picked up during regular business hours at the town clerk’s office – Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. A minimum of 20 registered voters signatures is required. People may call the town clerk’s office at 508-882-5549, extension, 305 for more information.

BSER shavings sale reminder

Bay State Equine Rescue (BSER) will hold its spring shavings sale. Pick up will be Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Camp Marshall, 92 McCormick Road, Spencer. Minimum order is ten. Cost is \$4.90 per bale plastic wrapped up to 199 and \$4.75 for 200 and up. Bale is 3.25 cubic feet compressed or 7.5 cubic feet loose. People may contact Sharon at 508-892-0233 or sah@baystateequinerescue.com.

Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library will be closed to the public through the month of April at which time the situation will be re-assessed. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

Listening Wellness Center offers remote appointments

BARRE – Listening Wellness Center and the Yoga Studio are closed to clients until at least May 4.

The after school program spring session is cancelled. Registrants will receive a separate email with updates in the coming week.

Many providers are offering teletherapy sessions, online classes or workshops and other virtual services. People may keep in touch with their provider and join the Facebook page for regular updates. Many services are free or covered by insurance. A Listening office staff is working remotely at listeningwellnesscenter@gmail.com or people can leave a message at 978-355-3501.

Several Listening therapists have already opened up spaces in their practices for TeleHealth, a form of online therapy appointments, and others are in the process of setting up TeleHealth options. These appointments are face-to-face, live calls on a smart phone, tablet or computer in the convenience of one’s home. People can find a bio and picture of each practitioner on the website. The list contains pertinent information including their phone number and the insurances that they accept.

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

PEOPLE/ MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.



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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY COLUMN

About the dreaded “IRMAA” provision

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: About a month or two ago I was notified that my Social Security was being reduced from \$1,583 a month to about \$1,283 a month, a \$300 deduction! They said it was because my income was over the limit on my last return. I filed my taxes “married - filing separately” because my wife has her own income. If we had filed jointly, I would not have had the reduction. My question is why wasn’t this told to us when we filed our income tax last year instead of a last-minute thing? I am a 77-year old and a 100 percent disabled veteran, which probably has no effect on this, but wanted to add that information. Any light you can shed on the matter will be very much appreciated.

Signed: Irritated Senior

Dear Irritated Senior: First, I want to thank you for your service to our country. Allow me to explain what I believe happened. Your net (not gross) Social Security benefit payment was probably reduced as a result of a rule known as “IRMAA” the “Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount.” This is a supplement added to your Medicare Part B premium as a result of higher income and a higher Medicare premium would mean a lower net Social Security payment.

Although filing your taxes separate from your wife does mean a lower income reported to the IRS for you, it also reduces the clip levels at which the IRMAA rule kicks in. For those who file income tax as an individual, IRMAA applies if your “provisional” income from all sources, including IRA or 401(K) withdrawals and half of your Social Security benefits for the tax year, exceeds \$87,000.

For those who file taxes jointly as a married couple, IRMAA applies if your combined income is more than \$174,000. Incomes above those clip levels result in corresponding higher IRMAA premiums, up to a maximum of \$491.60 (for 2020). So apparently your income for your filing status exceeded one of the higher IRMAA clip levels, which resulted in your monthly Medicare Part B premium going from the standard \$144.60 to an IRMAA premium about \$300 higher. Note that if your income in a subsequent year falls below the IRMAA clip levels, your Medicare premium will also go down to the level appropriate for your more recent income level.

As far as why you weren’t told this in advance, neither Medicare nor the IRS (nor any other Government agency) will advise you in advance on such matters; the onus is upon you (and your tax preparer or financial advisor) to understand the implications of your income on your Medicare premium as well as your income tax obligation. You may want to speak to your tax advisor to see if there is a tax-filing option for eliminating the IRMAA. Once again, thank you for your service to our country, and I hope the above clarifies what happened to your Social Security benefit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

TP MEASURES UP!!

hey!! six feet away, you must keep your distance!

I’m healthy, no virus, and building up resistance.

take out one TP roll from your closet and give it a measure

(and yes, quick, put it back in your secret-hoarded treasure).

4 1/2 inches wide is how ours met the ruler then do some third-grade math - this couldn’t be cooler. roll after roll after roll after roll--16 in all you will need

that’s 72 inches---hey!! that’s six feet, indeed!!

so out and about? proudly tote your 16 rolls with great pride

and be ready when someone crosses into the Healthy Divide.

when folks stand too close and encroach in your zone set out your measuring rolls as you do ‘round your throne.

have them respect the safe social-distance you need.

and if they do, but they’re sad, and begin a thin-paper plead

give them one roll as a favor---you’re making safety-zone friends

(and we all know you have TP galore---you’ll be flush ‘til this ends.)

— Ron Gordon

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
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In Past Pages

5 years ago (April 2, 2015)

Paul Rochette, finance committee chair, told selectmen that enrollment at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School was up 40 percent for Oakham students. The Pathfinder school budget increased by 2 percent over last year. Because of the increased enrollment, Oakham’s assessment was much higher. He said the preliminary budget for the Quabbin Regional School District was 8.5 percent higher than the previous year.

Barre Assembly of Rainbow Girls recently held an installation. Beckie Ward was installed as the new Mother Advisor.

This September, for the first time since he started kindergarten in the early 1960’s, Quabbin athletic director Ted Gumula will get the chance to sleep in on the first day of school. Gumula has announced he will retire at the end of this school year, ending an 11-year tenure as the boss of Panther interscholastic sports. The 59-year-old Gumula said that he is ready to retire after spending 37 years in education, the last 33 with Quabbin. “I’ve done what I had to do,” Gumula said during a private sit-down with the Barre Gazette during the recent Clark Tournament. “The numbers worked out, and it is time to go. It’s a very time-consuming job, and I’ve done what I can do.” Gumula came to Quabbin in 1982 following four fresh-out-of-college years at Springfield Cathedral High School. He became the athletic director in 2004, after spending several years as a game administrator under former AD Fran Cranston. In his 11 years, Gumula has seen many changes; in 2006, Gumula brought about the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame – a place Gumula is sure to end up.

10 years ago (April 8, 2010)

Seven hundred sixty-five of the 3,475 registered voters or 22 percent went to the polls to vote in the Barre Annual Town Election on April 5. Four hundred forty-three of the 1,805 registered voters in precinct 1 cast ballots and 322 of the 1,670 voters in precinct 2. There were three positions on the ballot with several challengers: board of selectmen, Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) Committee member (two positions) and constable (three positions). Incumbent Kathlyn M. Inman won a second three-year term to the board of selectmen with 457 votes (269 precinct 1 and 188 precinct 2).

Hubbardston Center School students participated in the Pennies for Patients Campaign and collected over \$1,000 to give to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Mr. Boyer from the Barre Savings Bank generously supported the efforts of the students with a check matching the classroom whose students collected the most money.

The newly-created, yet coveted title of Quabbin’s Funniest Person (People), was awarded to the Marshall-Skerry Show; a two-person comedy team of Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD)

LOOK BACK
Ruggles Lane Spelling Bee Winners - 1990



Turley Publications File Photo

The 65th Annual Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Friday Club at Barre's Ruggles Lane School on May 4, featured the linguistic talents of 16 fifth and sixth graders. After preliminary contests were held, 12 students advanced to participate in the event. The overall winners are pictured above, and they are from left: Amy Bentley (second prize), Marissa Mertzic (third prize) and Paul Kittredge (first prize).

Superintendent Dr. Maureen Marshall and QRSD financial manager Stacey Skerry. Together they stole the show and wowed the judges with a winning comedy performance before a crowded house at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick on April Fool’s Day. Competing against the likes of State Rep. Anne Gobi, WCRN radio station manager Chris Thompson and Eagle Hill’s Harold Burnett, the Marshall Skerry Team did a parody of parent expectations of gifted children, followed by the superintendent’s show of “New School Rules.” Quabbin’s Funniest Person Comedy Show was sponsored by the Quabbin Education Foundation for Students and Teachers (QUEST).

25 years ago (April 6, 1995)

Selectman Arlene Betteridge recently returned from “Americana ’95,” an environmental trade show and conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She and her husband are owners of Moore and Kling in Northboro, a firm that does system wide analyses of unaccounted-for water. Betteridge was chosen as a trade mission delegate to represent New England at the conference, and was the only woman to be selected.

The Hubbardston Council on Aging has received a \$400 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to be used to purchase 20 season tickets for Mt. Wachusett Community Theater. The price of the ticket is \$32.50, and \$20 of this will be covered by the grant. The participants must pay \$12.50.

Jennifer Bockus, a 1994 graduate of Quabbin Regional Middle-Senior High School, is one of five freshmen that contributed to a successful season for the Clark University Cougars basketball team. The Cougars finished the year with a 19-8 season that included a trip to the NCAA Division III National Tournament. This was Clark’s sixth appearance in the tournament, and its 16th consecutive post-season tournament bid. Bockus played in all 27 Cougars games, and made 32

of 94 field goals attempted, giving her a .340 field goal percentage. She has a .667 free-throw percentage. She is the daughter of Keith and Deborah Bockus of Hubbardston.

38 years ago (April 7, 1982)

Michael Como, Jr. of Hubbardston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Como, Sr. received his Eagle Award, the highest award in Boy Scouts, in ceremonies held at the Evangelical Congregational Church. Como earned the badge last June, and the Court of Honor, or formal presentation, was made Tuesday by Daniel Baker, field executive of the Monadnock Council; Thomas Comiskey of the Monadnock Council; and Hubbardston Boy Scout Leader Hiliary Scott, Jr. He received congratulatory letters from President Ronald Reagan, Sen. Robert Wetmore (D-Barre), and Rep. Henry Grenier of Barre. Grenier attended the Court of Honor and offered personal congratulations. Como graduated from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School in June 1981. He and his father are partners in an automobile sales and repair business. Como was a Cub Scout and joined Boy Scouts at age 10. To earn the Eagle Award, in addition to completing a number of badges and going before a board of review, scouts must organize and complete a community project involving other scouts. Como’s project was refinishing the desks at Center School.

Last Saturday, April 3, Walter Zelnia, New Braintree Road, Oakham, received the Boston Post gold headed cane, symbolic of the oldest person in town, at a small reception on the Senior Lounge in the Town Hall. This was attended by about fifty relatives and friends. Refreshments were served by the Council on Aging. Walter was born in Vilna, Poland, on a date about which there seems to be a little uncertainty, but the year in the town clerk’s census records is

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

I have been staying home like all folks have been ordered to do. Wait a minute, I am home and have been for quite some time. It is Missy that has to stay hoe now and she is driving me crazy. I am not under her foot; she is under mine and curbs my mischievous times.

She has been sewing away to pass the time, but she has decided to do her washing this morning. Good, that will give me time to mess up the papers while she is down cellar putting the clothes in the washer.

She put two catalogs on top of the papers this week, which makes it fun for me to mess things up as those slide around better.

Oh, oh, here she comes so I’ll pretend I am drinking some water and having a late snack. Yep, she went right into the sewing room and didn’t see my mess.

I think I will go watch the birdies for a while. Yesterday, Missy said there were robins in the yard, but today with the snow all I see is little ones at the feeder.

The wash is done so Missy is going back to put the clothes in the dryer. I’ll just check out the sewing room while she is gone. Well, what do you know? There is a cord with a plug on it lying on the floor. I’ll just pick it up and take it to the kitchen. Whoops, something just hit me on my back. Ouch, I forgot there was also a plug for the sewing machine attached.

I hear Missy coming so I’ll just have a nap in her bedroom. Oh, no, Missy washed the sheets and the blankets are on the floor. So I guess you know I have to jump up on them and then snuggle down – anything to keep out of Missy’s way.

I wonder if other cats are having troubles with their mistresses being home all the time. Try to stay healthy people and wash your hands. That’s what I am doing with my paws.

Love,
Gertrude



2020 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Did anyone April Fool you? It would be nice if the virus was an April Fool, but we are not so lucky. How have you been observing the shut down and staying home. I finally took my watercolors out and am working on more cards. I did make a couple of facemasks in case I have to go to a store for food.

Each day I call a couple of my friends to check on them. It also gives me someone to talk to. It can be very stressful talking to one self.

Because we had several nice warm days with no wind, I was able to get a lot more done on the gardens raking out the leaves and edging them. I still only have snow drops in bloom, but the spring bulbs are coming through. We had four inches of snow, but it melted quickly. I call it "Poor Man's Fertilizer."

Here is a recipe that may bring some happiness to your family.

APPLE CRUMB PIE

1 unbaked pastry shell
6 apples, sliced
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup honey or light corn syrup

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place apples in pastry shell. Blend together other ingredients and spoon over apples.

TOPPING

6 tablespoons butter, melted
1/2 cup light brown sugar
1/4 cup flour, sifted
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Blend together ingredients and sprinkle over the top of the pie. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

This and That

My friends keep sending me jokes to cheer me up. Here is one that made me smile. A sign near the rest room of a restaurant said, "Men to the left with an arrow pointing left and women are always right with an arrow to the right." My comments would be if only men knew that they would be so much happier. Have a great day and keep washing the hands with hot water and soap.

Here is another bit of advice that was given to me. If you have to go out in public, use your left hand to open doors and things you have to touch like food in the grocery store so if you happen to touch your face you normally would use your right hand. Stay healthy and safe.

Garden space worthy of personalizing

I have almost as much fun accessorizing my garden as I do planting it! With the amount of statuary, bird baths, sun dials and metal work seen popping up at nurseries and garden centers these days I know I am not alone. What is your personal fancy? Perhaps you decorate your vegetable or flower gardens for functional reasons or maybe to add a formal flair to your landscape. Still some of you may choose an outdoor venue to let your whimsical side shine through. Whatever the case may be, garden art is the rage. What better time than now to dream about our outdoor spaces?

Who would have thought that the lowly scarecrow, born from the rag pile, would rise to such high esteem to claim a space in suburban gardens? Not surprising, considering our love of all things folksy. Some of us still fashion scarecrows for the reason they were intended: to keep critters out of the vegetable patch. To be most effective they should move about the garden. My dad had an ingenious idea for making the scarecrow portable. Fabricate the base to which the clothes are attached out of piping (metal or PVC) rather than wood. Then, in several garden hot spots bang rebar or wooden dowels into the ground. The scarecrow can now be moved easily by slipping its base over the rebar or dowel.

Many of us prefer to lure wildlife, namely birds and butterflies, to our gardens by providing them

with attractive housing and a source of fresh water. For birdhouses to be functional insure they have a sloped roof to shed water, a perch or other area of traction near the entrance hole, and a removable wall or roof for easy cleaning. Birdbaths are commonly made of ceramic, terra cotta or stone. More shallow baths are made for butterflies, usually with a raised sipping station in the center of the basin. Give each a good scrub under fresh water daily to prevent bacterial growth and algae build up.

One way to achieve a formal look in your garden is to include some statuary. These days it need not be expensive, either. Many garden centers now carry nice (and lightweight!) pieces made out of resin.

Take into consideration the symbolic meanings attached to many of our favorite figurines before making your selection. Linda Joan Smith's book entitled "Garden Ornament" offers these suggestions: The acorn stands for life and fertility, whereas an urn with its lid means death and mourning. A statue of man's best friend is no doubt a symbol of fidelity and acts as guardian of the garden. Doves mean love and constancy, and cherubs are a sure sign of divine wisdom. Don't forget St. Fiacre, he is

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

the patron saint of gardeners!

Sundials add a timeless formality to our gardens. Did you know that sundials have been made since the 16th century? I imagine it was long before that, however, that man began planning his day by the shadows of the sun. Sundial time and our "clock time" are exactly the same only four days out of the year: April 15, June 15, Sept. 1 and Dec. 24. The easiest way to accurately set your sundial is to hope for sun on any of those days and position it to read standard time. Sundials aren't corrected for daylight savings!

There have been lots of posts lately geared at keeping the kids busy during their sojourn from school. I saw some whimsical painted stones that looked cute enough to try ourselves. Cactus, ladybug or frog? Which will we attempt to replicate?

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

In My Backyard by Ellenor Downer

Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a sighting of a marsh wren in Canton on March 20.

The marsh wren is five inches long. It is a secretive bird with a brown back with white streaks, its crown is dark brown and it has a white eyebrow. It has a white throat and breast with a pale belly. It has white on the underside of its tail.

It inhabits marshy areas as its name implies. It prefers marshes with tall cattails and rushes. In spring, the male does a flight display on his territory. He flies up, then flutters gradually down or giving his rattling song. He also builds about five or six courtship nests of an outer shell of woven cattails. When the female arrives, she selects one of the nests and adds a lining or she may build a new nest herself.

She then lays three to eight cinnamon brown eggs with dark spots. Marsh wrens are often polygamous with two or three females paired with one male.

Black-capped chickadee

I have a black-capped chickadee with a short tail. It probably lost its tail feathers to a predator. The short tail does not impede its ability to fly. If it was a predator, it was lucky to be alive. The feathers will grow back.

Birds in West Brookfield

A West Brookfield couple has resident bluebirds. The bluebirds scold when they are late replenishing the mealworm supply. The



Paula Ouimette, the author's daughter, drew this marsh wren.

couple also has American goldfinches, red-winged blackbirds and the usual birds. They had a pileated woodpecker recently.

More bluebirds

My son-in-law saw four bluebirds in his yard in Barre. He watched them perch in bush and fly to the ground to grab an insect. He also saw an American goldfinch, chickadees and a mourning dove at the feeder.

Dark-eyed juncos

I still have dark-eyed juncos coming to my feeder. Soon, they will fly north to their breeding area. They will return in the fall. Many birds indicate spring is here. Juncos on the other hand are a sign that winter is coming.

Other Audubon sightings

March 24 Massachusetts Audubon Society reported 400 red-breasted mergansers, three piping plover, 110 sanderlings, 25 Dunlin, four common Murres, 275 razorbills, seven Iceland gulls and 385 red-throated loons at Race Point, Provincetown.

Other sightings included a Ross goose in Newbury, a marsh wren in Canton, northern water thrush in Waltham and an orange-crowned warbler in Nahant.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com.

West Brookfield Asparagus Festival canceled

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival, scheduled for Saturday, May 16, has been canceled.

An announcement, signed by co-chairmen Anne Garwood Hampp and Emily Day, mailed to vendors last week, stated, "Due to the recent declaration of the State of Emergency by Governor Charles Baker and the issuance of Global Pandemic by the World Health Organization of COVID-19, the West Brookfield Board of Health has officially cancelled all festivals, concerts and gatherings of more than 10 people in the town of West Brookfield until further notice. Unfortunately, this means that the West Brookfield Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival will

be canceled for this year. We hope that decisive actions like these at our local and national level will help to stem the spread of COVID-19.

We hope to see your applications again in 2021, in the meantime we hope you all stay safe and healthy during these uncertain times."

The festival, celebrating what would have been its twentieth year, has been, since its inception, a highly popular springtime event, attracting thousands to the West Brookfield town common for a day of celebration of food, music, children, animals, and more than a hundred vendors of everything asparagus, earthy and artisanal, all in the name of Diederick Leertouwer.

Leertouwer served as a Dutch ambassador to Massachusetts and New Hampshire; he lived in a home on the common in West Brookfield and, according to local history, brought asparagus to America in 1794.

Amy Dugas, a director of the festival since its early years, expressed her regret over the cancellation, but reminds all friends, visitors and vendors that the festival will appear next year on the third Saturday in May.

"We're saddened by the news, saddened by the problem that's gripped the world. But we're looking forward to the time next year when it's all behind us, and we can welcome everyone back to this special day in West Brookfield," Dugas said.

HOSPITALS, continued from page 1

Health hospitals.

There are exceptions, at the discretion of Baystate Health, of one parent or guardian for a patient under the age of 18, one birthing partner for a patient in labor, one person at a time for a hospice or end of life patient, one clergy member for an end of life patient and one caretaker for a completely depending patient.

Seeking medical attention

Holyoke Medical Center advises people with symptoms to call their primary care provider and/or go to the center and follow signs labeled for fever, cough and flu symptoms, which lead to the Emergency Room.

Dr. Armando Paez, Chief of Infectious Diseases at Baystate Health, added that "approximately 80 percent of COVID-19 are mild infections.

"However, this can be a serious infection requiring hospitalization for some, particularly in the elderly and those with diabetes,

heart and lung disease," he said. "Similar to the flu, symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath two to 14 days after exposure. Symptoms can be mild to severe illness and result in pneumonia."

The medical team at Cooley Dickinson strongly recommends that everyone stay home, isolate, practice social distancing and maintain good hand hygiene.

"That's the best thing we can do to help decrease the transmission of the virus," said MacGregor.

Both facilities are in daily communication with local and state officials, the Massachusetts Hospital Association and other hospitals.

Cooley Dickinson is also in touch with its parent hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital.

"Conversations are about testing; supporting our workforce through this public health crisis; planning for a potential surge of patients as well as managing the daily operations of people who come to the hospital with heart

attack, stroke, and other medical conditions that are not related to COVID-19. We are working collaboratively across the region and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," said MacGregor.

MacGregor explained what symptoms mandate a hospital visit.

"If someone is experiencing common symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever or cough, they should call their primary health care provider for guidance," she said. "For their safety and the safety of others, please do not go to an urgent care clinic or emergency room unless you have been instructed to do so."

"Your primary care provider will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. If you are experiencing life-threatening symptoms such as difficulty in breathing or pressure in the chest, please call 911."

Medical staff face shortage

Hospitals and medical centers across the state are being also facing a lack of supplies.

Materials that may have been taken for granted last month have quickly become precious commodities. Local facilities are preparing for the worst, and additional materials are needed.

Holyoke Medical Center had adequate supplies as of March 23, but Director of Marketing Rebecca MacGregor voiced concerns surrounding resupply. The hospital needs N-95 Masks and N-95, she said.

However, used or homemade masks will not be accepted, MacGregor added.

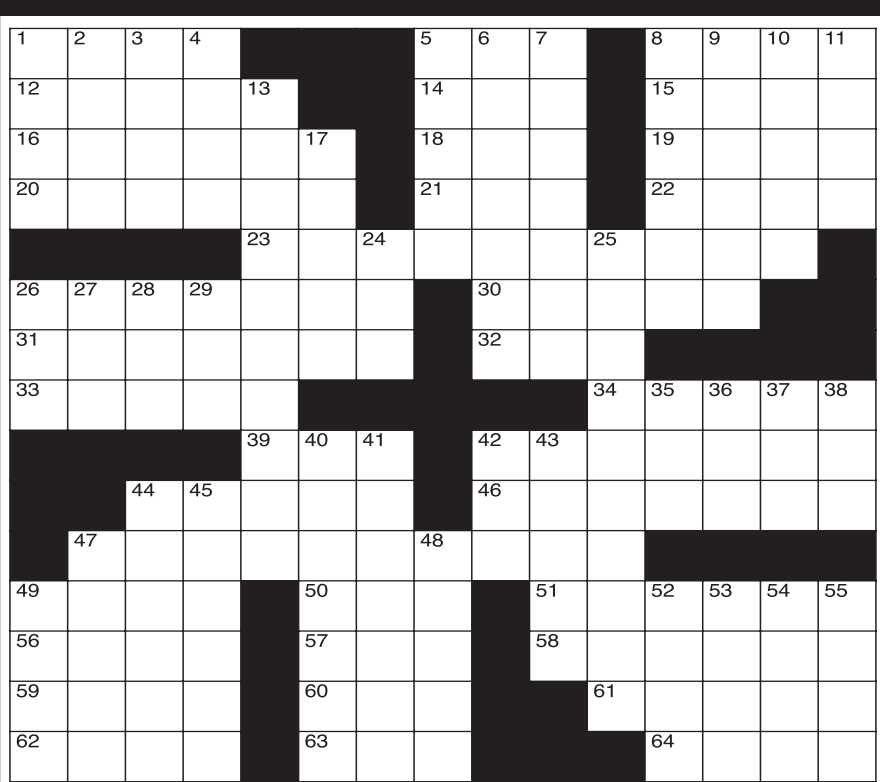
Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton adopted a similar policy regarding "risky masks," but urges residents to donate medical-grade Personal Protective Equipment.

Acceptable donations include surgical or fluid shield N-95 masks, goggles, safety glasses, disposable gowns, hand sanitizer, bleach and Sani-Wipes.

Provisions can be dropped off at Cooley Dickinson's North Entrance, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bond villain Mikkelsen
5. A team's best pitcher
8. French river
12. Mountain nymph (Greek)
14. City of Angels airport
15. Military force
16. Scrawny
18. Value
19. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
20. Highly seasoned sausage
21. Trouble
22. Pronog
23. Showing varying colors
26. Cloaked
30. Renters sign one
31. Acquires
32. Type of language (abbr.)
33. Partner to pains
34. Third portion of the

CLUES DOWN

1. Female parents
2. Region
3. Transaction
4. Heroic tale
5. Of algae
6. Luminous intensity unit
7. Uncovers
8. French commune name
9. Poisonous gas
10. Pearl Jam's bassist
11. Horse groom in India
13. Destroyed
17. A way to alter speech
24. Promotional materials
25. American state
26. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
27. "Modern Family" network
28. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
29. Exercise system __-bo

35. Type of bulb
36. Opposite of beginning
37. Utilize
38. Type of student
40. Deficiency of moisture
41. Areas of the eye
42. Select
43. Sheets of floating ice
44. Priests who act as mediums
45. Roof of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Illuminated
49. There are three famous ones
52. Large, fast Australian birds
53. "Dracula" heroine
54. Substitutes (abbr.)
55. Tax
62. IEEE
63. Yew
64. Sass



PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

1891 which makes him 91 years old, clearly the oldest man in town.

David Newell, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School will attend Assumption College next fall. He has selected social rehabilitation as his area of study and hopes to become a counselor. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Newell of Elm Street, Barre, David was active in soccer, basketball, and the baseball teams, the junior supper committee, Spanish club, senior bazaar, yearbook staff, American Legion Baseball and Babe Ruth Baseball.

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

MOC CFCE temporarily suspended playgroups and other family events until at least April 7. Governor Baker declared a state of emergency hoping to contain the spread of the coronavirus across the Commonwealth. The Parent Child Plus program will continue to operate with your Early Learning Specialist continuing to visit with enrolled.

North Brookfield Savings Bank postponed its free five-week financial literacy program, which was scheduled from April 2 through April 30.

North Brookfield Savings Bank postponed its free homebuyers and brews homebuyers' night scheduled for April 30 at Oakholm Brewing Co. in Brookfield.

Massachusetts 4-H programs, activities and club meeting are cancelled until further notice. This includes advisory councils, fair boards, horse advisories and events. Groups are allowed to meet virtually.

Oakham Congregational Church postponed its breakfast and annual Easter Egg hunt, both scheduled for April 4. If the situation improves the breakfast and egg hunt may be rescheduled for after Easter.

Oakham Congregational Church will not hold Sunday worship service April 5.

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least Tuesday, April 7. The eggs will still be available Thursdays at the same time and produce will still be available Wednesdays and Fridays with pickup u outside. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400,

TOWN ELECTION, continued from page 1

take a vote to postpone tonight as the election next Monday. Selectmen Dylan Clark and Urban both voted to postpone the election, but they did not set a date. Selectman Clark said whenever the election would be held he encouraged people to vote by absentee

extension 211 with any questions.

Friends of the Stone Church in Gilbertville postponed the silent film “Peter Pan” on April 18. Updates will be posted at FriendsoftheStoneChruch.org.

The Gardner Museum, following recommendations from local and state health officials and American Alliance of Museums guidelines in response to ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures, will be closed to the public effective immediately until at least April 7.

Stage on Main, 17 South Main St., Orange has suspended all events until at least April 7 as a precaution against COVID-19.

Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham will be closed to the public until at least April 7, a which time the situation will be reassessed. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

All Barre Town Buildings will be closed to the public, except by appointment and include the Henry Woods Building, Woods Memorial Library, the Council on Aging (senior center), old Town Hall, the public safety building, fire stations and DPW. Please call an office before visiting in many cases staff is able to assist over the phone or by mail. Meals on Wheels program and wellness checks for seniors will continue.

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until at least April 7. Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of services remotely. All public safety operations will

ballot or early voting as it would reduce the size of the gathering at the election.

Emergency Management update
Interim town administrator Heather Monro gave an emergency management update. She said the Emergency Management Team that consists of the fire chief, police chief, a member of the Board of Health and herself meet on

continue.

Theatre at the Mount (TAM) at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner has cancelled their production of “Beauty and the Beast, Jr.,” scheduled for April 5-10. Tickets purchased online will be refunded back to the credit card used for purchase, within 30 days. Cash purchases will be refunded upon request by phone at 978-630-9388 or by email at box-office@mwcc.mass.edu.

The Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield library trustees decided to close the library effective immediately until at least April 7. Library staff will be on site for short periods Monday through Thursday to collect mail and respond to phone messages.

April art exhibition hosted by the Hardwick Historical Society and featuring local artist Frank J. Bly scheduled for April 4 and 5 at the Hardwick Town House, Hardwick Common, has been postponed indefinitely.

East Quabbin Land Trust postponed its 19th annual dinner and silent auction to Saturday, Sept. 19.

The American Red Cross cancelled its Heroes Breakfasts events scheduled for April 3 and April 9.

The Asparagus Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 16 on West Brookfield Common has been cancelled for this year. It will return in May 2021.

EQLT rescheduled its accessible trail workday to June 21.

Barre American Legion Auxiliary cancelled its April 13 meeting.

Wednesdays. She said staff at the Henry Woods Building was flexing time so the number of people in the building was small. Whenever, possible the staff works from home. Monro said she assigned online training at this time to staff.

Selectman Urban said, “It would be nice to seek the peak in the couple of weeks, but he was not hopeful.”

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Oakham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 6. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Dick Clark, Sandy Fritscher, Bill Mucha and Judy Ruskowski correctly identified last week’s photo. Last week’s photo was a sign on the Common in front of the North Brookfield Congregational Church, Main Street (Rte. 67), North Brookfield.

Second Chance Food Pantry helps pet owners

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services wants Massachusetts food pantries to know the Second Chance Pet Food Pantry remains open for distributions to help pet owners in their communities. The program has been helping local food pantries for over 10 years, providing a helping hand for pet owners in difficult times.

“This program is more important than ever,” says Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato. “We started our pet food pantry to help pet owners bridge the gap. Pet owners often cite a personal financial crisis when they call us to surrender their pet. Being able to direct them to the food pantry in their own town is an important tool to help keep pets in their homes.”

“Do I get my medicine, or do I get my cat’s food?” This question, overheard at a senior center many years ago, still echoes for Michelle Bertrand, who volunteers with several area food pantries. Bertrand helps pick up pet food distributions from the Second Chance Pet Food Pantry for programs in Rutland, Barre and Hubbardston. She told Second Chance staff she sees first-hand how the program is making a difference, particularly for area seniors on fixed incomes.

Blancato expects the need to increase during the current COVID-19 crisis. Anyone interested in donating to the pet food pantry can have pet food donations sent directly through online retailers to Second Chance, 111

Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515. The pantry is currently requesting dry cat food.

Second Chance is a non-profit 501c3 tax-exempt organization that began in 1999 in East Brookfield and relies solely on donations from grants to operate. The organization operates an adoption center in East Brookfield, Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester. Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets a year through adoption, spay/neuter, veterinary care, community outreach, educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry. For more information, people may visit Second Chance’s website at www.secondchanceanimals.org.

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Things
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TRIAL COURTS,
continued from page 1

“continued” by the court.
Also being continued are all jury trials.
“All trials in both criminal and civil cases scheduled to commence in Massachusetts state courts between today and April 17, 2020, are continued to a date no earlier than April 21, 2020,” according to the SJC, “unless the trial is a civil case where the parties and the court agree that the case can be decided without the need for in-person appearance in court. Where

Northampton, part of the Northwestern District which includes towns like Belchertown and Ware, was temporarily closed as well. That closure included Hampshire County Superior Court. Both were scheduled to re-open on Tuesday, March 31. However, like Hampden’s courts, they are subject to the same in-person restrictions as the courts seeks to have as few people as possible.
In terms of criminal activity, the courts are still processing and arraigning suspects. Arraignments have also

occurred remotely and through alternate means.
For jurors, with jury service suspended, the Office of the Jury Commissioner is temporarily closed. The people in the office are working remotely. All jurors with service scheduled through April 7 have had their service cancelled. Anyone with service scheduled for April 7 are on standby status unless they have received a notice of cancellation from the court.
For more information, call your local clerk’s office or go to www.mass.gov.

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We wish everyone good health and good luck during these difficult times.

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Dextradeur celebrates 40 years of coaching

By Karen A. Lewis
Sports Correspondent

BARRE - Over four decades ago Quabbin boys head basketball coach Dennis Dextradeur made a promise to himself that he'd be still be involved with basketball.

Not only did he keep that promise, after forty years of coaching Quabbin varsity basketball – his first 12 years with the girls' team and the remainder of the 28 with the boys, Dextradeur has created a living legacy within the Panther basketball program.

"Coach is a lifelong learner which has made him a tremendous lifelong teacher of the game," said Quabbin boys' basketball assistant coach Jason Ayer, who has been alongside Dextradeur since 1995. "I have never met a coach more dedicated to the development of athletes. His ability to understand how to mold different personalities, grow individual skill levels and nurture strong relationships with the players have been three pillars of his success. He has always taught his assistants that you can't coach a kid hard until they know you care."

The path Dextradeur traveled from when he pledged to stick with the sport that ultimately became a huge part of his life was an interesting one.

Always a lover of sports – Dextradeur filled his childhood days with neighborhood whiffle ball, basketball at Boys Club and hard ball late in the day.

However, it was basketball that kept his attention and when Dextradeur was cut from Quabbin's high school team as a junior by Coach Mike Dymon, life could have taken a much different course.

"Mike was a master teacher and motivator, I owe so much to his teaching, mentoring and friendship," said Dextradeur, who credits his mother and his father for being great influences. "Without Mike in my life I may have accepted failure



Quabbin coach Dennis Dextradeur keeps his eyes on the game as Jared Kendall gets ready to shoot during a contest from the '18-'19 season.

and taken a different path."

One thing Dymon did was recognize something in Dextradeur.

"Coach Dymon always supported me and selected me for the physical education award which meant a great deal to me and impacted positively my decision and college career to study physical education," said Dextradeur, who went on to earn an undergraduate degree in physical education and a master's in exercise science and

physiology. "He inspired me to become better and never give up. He made the decision to cut me as a junior and it was the right one. I was not the best skilled player and needed to work harder and better to succeed. I needed to persevere."

Ironically the team Dextradeur was cut from, wound up winning the Wachusett League Championship in 1973, something that wouldn't happen again for Quabbin for another 22 years until

1995 when Dextradeur was at the helm as their coach.

"That team was outstanding that year (1972-73), many of those players are still today my closest friends," stated Dextradeur. "I made a promise to myself I would still be playing when none of them were any longer. It wasn't that I was jealous or angry, it was just a promise that I made to myself that I needed to keep. I was instilled with the value to never blame any-



Photos by Karen A. Lewis

Quabbin boys' basketball coach Dennis Dextradeur goes over strategy with his varsity team during a scrimmage in 2018.

one else. Do your best, and if that wasn't good enough, then do it again a second time, and then again and again."

One of the absolute worst part of coaching for Dextradeur is having to make cuts.

"I always want them back better, so never accept it and endeavor to persevere," Dextradeur said. "That's how I coped with my experience. I try to teach that way."

Forever a Panther, Dextradeur had the opportunity to student teach in 1980 under science department chair Maureen Marshall, who eventually became the superintendent, and physical education chair Dymon. The same year he applied for the freshman boys' basketball coaching job.

See DEXTRADEUR, page 8



Submitted Photo

And oldie but a goodie picture of Dennis Dextradeur, who celebrated his 40th season of coaching basketball for Quabbin Regional High School this past winter.

Latest school closure threatens cancellation of spring tournaments

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The extended school closure imposed by Gov. Charlie Baker last week has now called into question whether or not school will resume in the 2019-2020 school year, but also whether or not there will even be a shortened regular season for spring sports in 2020.

Numerous schools have students chomping at the bit to get on fields and courts, but the latest

closure extension threatens any of that from happening, as well as puts the postseason tournament in serious jeopardy.

MIAA officials and the Board of Directors were scheduled to have another meeting to weigh guidance from the Tournament Management Committee about the prospect of having the tournament.

The current plan was to open up practices for spring sports on Monday, April 27. Games could begin on Monday, May 4.

Last week, Baker announced an extension of the school closure to Monday, May 4. However, depending on how the pandemic numbers shake out, social distancing orders could be lifted sooner. Players could hit fields before school resumes much like they do during the summertime preparing for fall sports.

While it remains a possibility, the MIAA has not discussed the possibility of the entire spring season being cancelled. However, the board of directors did agree that if

spring sports did not begin before April 27, there would be no tournament action.

On March 26, the MIAA described the additional school closure as a fluid situation. The MIAA hopes to provide an update sometime this week.

"Among TMC recommendations to the Board is that if there is a spring season start date of after April 27, there will not be an MIAA tournament," the MIAA

See SPRING SPORTS, page 8

Summer Challenge announced for Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, Conn. -- Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park and Save The Purse jointly announced on Thursday that competitors in the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series Late Model division will have three, 50-lap feature races in 2020 as part of a new Late Model Mid-Summer Challenge.

A group of competitors joined together over the off-season to form Save The Purse, a group that has come up with additional purse money through sponsors and have put it towards these special events. The group is run by recognized racing crew member

Brad Martel.

Each of the three events will pay \$2,000 to the winner, \$1,000 for second and \$750 for third. A full purse will be distributed to the top 25 competitors. The races will take place as part of the three standalone NASCAR Weekly Racing Series events scheduled for June 3, July 8 and Aug. 5.

Thompson Speedway is committed to the future of oval track racing and in 2020 has planned a six-race NASCAR schedule. With the addition of a night of double features for all five NASCAR divisions, competitors will have the chance to run seven feature races.

These Late Model special events are going to be a must-watch for all race fans.

"Watching a group of racers come together and come up with funds to increase the purse is something special, and we are happy to work with them," Terry Eames, the General Manager of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, said. "We're looking forward to watching competitors race for this extra purse money while running some extra laps. Fans won't want to miss these special events."

"We were determined to come up with the best possible solution to increase the purse value at

Thompson in 2020," Brad Martel, the Director of Save The Purse, said. "We're looking forward to watching a competitive division competed in double their normal distance for some extra cash."

Sponsors included in the Mid-Summer Classic will be announced later. As part of these special night events, the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series Sunoco Modifieds, SK Light Modifieds, Limited Sportsman and Mini Stocks will join the action.

See THOMPSON SPEEDWAY, page 8

Avard to lead Valley Blue Sox in 2020

HOLYOKE – Blue Sox President Fred Ciaglo announced today the hiring of Kate Avard and the team's new General Manager.

Avard, 22, will be returning to the Blue Sox organization after interning with the team during the 2016 season. The Easthampton, MA native, originally from Holyoke, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she earned a B.S. degree in Sport Management from the Isenberg School of Management and a B.S. degree studying kinesiology from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

"We're very excited to appoint Kate as our new General Manager," said Ciaglo. "Having previously served as one of our interns, she knows the culture and community-oriented mission of our organization. Given her education in sport management, Kate will bring strong business fundamentals, creativity and a passion for baseball to the Blue Sox front office."

While at UMass Amherst, Avard served as the Intramural Special Events Assistant and held multiple internships within the Athletic Department. After graduating from UMass Amherst, Avard enrolled in graduate courses studying athletic training and emergency medicine at Boston University. Avard is eager to return to



Kate Avard

MacKenzie Stadium and expand her role with the organization.

"Growing up in Holyoke, I attended many Holyoke Giants games, then later Blue Sox games, with my family which is where I fell in love with the sport of baseball," said Avard. I later interned with the team and saw firsthand the positive influence the team had on the local families and local community, similar to what I had personally experienced growing up," she added.

"The Blue Sox reputation has grown tremendously over the past few years, making the team a staple throughout Western Mass, said Avard. "Stepping into the role of General Manager, I hope I am able to build upon the relationship the organization has with the community and grow the team in the coming years."

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Obituary

William “Billy” Mortell, 30

BARRE – William “Billy” Mortell, 30, passed away unexpectedly on March 21, 2020. He leaves his parents, Daniel and Maureen Mortell; his grandfather, Daniel J Mortell and grandmother Mary O'Donnell; siblings, Maggie Bentley, Adam, Nick and Travis Mortell, Haley, Dominic, Bella and Enzo Maragioglo, Xavier Bransfield and Ryan Carroll; many aunts and uncles and their families; plus countless friends and loved ones. He is predeceased by his grandmother, Lois Mortell and his grandfather, Matthew F. O'Donnell. Billy was born in Dorchester on Aug. 12, 1989 to Kelly Bransfield and William

Maragioglo, both of Dorchester. He was later adopted by Daniel and Maureen Mortell of Barre, where he lived out his childhood and made many happy memories with his brothers by his side. Billy struggled over the years with addiction and ultimately lost the battle when God called him home. He was a kind and loving soul, he would give the last shirt off his back for his loved ones. He had a way of making you laugh and truly left an imprint on many. He will be missed more than words can be expressed.



A Celebration of Billy's Life will be held at a later date to be determined. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre is in charge of arrangements.

DEATH NOTICE

Mortell, William
Died March 21, 2020
Celebration of Life
at a later date
Pillsbury Funeral Home

Baystate Health moves blood donor operation to Holyoke

SPRINGFIELD – The need for blood donations is so much that Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker included blood and platelet donors on his list of essential services issued recently. America faces a severe blood shortage during the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams is urging healthy individuals to donate blood as the crisis unfolds. Until further notice during the COVID-19 pandemic, Baystate Health is relocating all blood and platelet donation to 361 Whitney Avenue in Holyoke. Blood donations will take place daily, Monday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are suggested and can be made by calling 413-794-4600.

Platelet donations will also occur at Whitney Avenue, but are by appointment only at 413-794-4600. Additional protocols are being implemented during the coronavirus pandemic for the safety and health of donors, including: prescreening donors, extra precautionary cleaning and spacing out donors to comply with social distancing and group gathering

restrictions. All eligible donors will receive a ticket to Six Flags (for future use, valid through Jan. 3, 2021) and a gift card to Big Y or Dunkin'. People may contact the Baystate Health Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600 with questions or to make an appointment. For more information on the coronavirus, people may visit baystatehealth.org/covid19.

Baystate Health modifies labor and delivery visitor policy

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health has modified the visitor policy related to labor and delivery. Effective immediately, Baystate will allow the partner, who attends the birth to remain with the patient until discharge, with the provision that the visitor not leave the patient room for any reason. The partner will be screened twice a day for signs of infection.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Note: The Barre Gazette staff reached out to area churches if they would provide sermons during the Coronavirus pandemic. Any pastor, priest or rabbi wishing to participate may email either barrenews@turley.com or edowner@turley.com.

Fifth Sunday of Lent
A Pastoral message by Pastor Margaret Keyser Barre Congregational Church
Let our minds be set on the Spirit of Christ

Scripture Reading: Romans 8 v 6-11
Grace and peace to you, dear members and friends of the Barre Congregational Church. I am writing to you again from my home on this fifth Sunday of Lent. Again, we join many Christians around the world today in prayer, asking for God's mercy and protection against the Coronavirus pandemic. Please pray this prayer in silence... We lift our eyes to the hills... where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. We worship You, oh Lord and call upon Your Holy Name! We thank You for Your love in all circumstances We offer to You our hearts and minds and all that we are this morning, and ask that You give us faith to rest in the knowledge that with You we will walk through the good times and bad times. Help us not to fear, but to believe and trust in Your holy power and Your protection and remind us of the sacrifice Your Son went through for our salvation. We pray for all our needs and ask You for Your forgiveness of our sins. Bless our congregation and all our members and friends Be present and bring comfort to those who are sick and lonely Bless our loved ones and keep them safe Bring release of this virus and give us Your peace and protection We pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen Scripture Reading: Romans 8 v 6-11 Please spend a moment and read through the scripture prayerfully... 6. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, 8. and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Introduction
We all must be having some of these feelings, questions and uncertainties these days, "it is so much work to wash my hands for 20 seconds several times a day", or "life is so different now...how long is this going to last? What happened to us, and where will this all lead?" or just maybe feeling deeply concerned about the effects of the Coronavirus on human life, on all of us. There

may be many more questions and uncertainties in our minds and hearts this morning, and maybe we are looking for comfort and the calming of our minds and spirits. May this message from Romans 8 v 6 - 11 inspire us and direct our paths today and the days ahead... **Life in the Spirit** While the Apostle Paul did not start the church in Rome, he felt compelled to write to them and talk about the good news of Christ's salvation for the Jewish Christians as well as those who had not come to Christ yet. His core message to them was that faith in God guarantees salvation and deliverance from sin and death. Given his own history as a persecutor of the church, he knew what death he was talking about, the death of the old person without knowledge and experience of life in the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ. In the first part of Romans Chapter 8, Paul describes life in the Spirit as a life of victory and hope, as opposed to life under the old order of the law, which is the law of sin and death says FF Bruce in his book, Romans. Under the old order of the law, something important was missing to do the will of God and be at peace with God and one another. In addition, says Bruce, without the in-dwelling of the Spirit, humanity relies for the most part on their own resources, which at some point, in the midst of a crisis, leads to a losing battle, whereas life in the Spirit makes them conquerors of their own limitations and weaknesses. This may all sound like a judgment on humanity, which we do not need during a time of a global pandemic, right? It also sounds like a Moses in the desert, or the voice of a Jeremiah to the people of Judah, speaking to them about their ways, and the need to return to the presence of the One who brought them out of the hands of the Egyptians. Is it really a judgment, or a call to return to God?

The dominion of Christ, our Liberator
Paul explains how life in the Spirit implies a certain condition, a condition of redemption, a condition that manifests something new, something so transformative and according to the way of God; a peaceful existence from which everything else flows, says New Testament scholar, Herman Ridderbos. This, as opposed to the power of the old person of the flesh with a blind spot for the will and love of God for humanity and this world. The way of the flesh lacks the sustained ability to love unconditionally, relate and heal on a deep level.

The way of the flesh needs the Spirit of Christ from whom all new life flows, Paul says. The way of the flesh has a constraint of sin that tends to destroy and needs to be brought under the dominion of Christ, the Liberator of us all. Christ, according to Ridderbos, is the One who possesses this new redeeming sovereignty. Christ is the One that transforms the old person into the new and changes the old world order into the new. The Spirit of Christ within us is what heals and restores. To be led by the Spirit of Christ, is to be led into a specific direction, says Ridderbos. I offer perhaps a direction of humility before God? Christ Himself led the way towards this new dispensation. Lent is a time of remembering His suffering, a process and act of redemption for humanity. His death opened the heavens, but it also opened up the pathway for a new way with God and

with one another...a new world. **Conclusion: Is this not what we need?** Is this not what we need today? Did this world not become a place filled with pain and of the flesh, a departure from what God wants for us? Right before the pandemic, we talked about the opioid crisis, the mass shootings, and many other challenges and ills in our society. These are tragic realities we have lived with for some time now. All over the world we saw division and wars and corruption and much more. It was hard to switch on the news to find the good news! This pandemic has brought the whole world to its knees, to a place in the proverbial desert where we look around for manna and water of a different kind. We look for medical and personal protective equipment for those on the frontlines who are fighting for the lives of human beings. We search for disinfectant and many basic necessities that fly off the store shelves. People suffer and die in the thousands all around us, and it has become an almost impossible human task to stop this virus from spreading and doing so much damage to humanity. Is this not the right time, now, not tomorrow or next week, to stay on our knees daily, pray and ask God to unleash God's Spirit in the deepest places of our hearts and minds, all over this world so we can live and not die in this way? Is this season of Lent not the time to stop everything and walk this journey with Christ, in the desert, and ask God to take this cross away from us? Should we not repent and ask for mercy from the heart of God, to free us and transform this world into a place where God feels welcome, and where we can live and breathe again? May the message of the letter to the Romans bear fruit in our hearts, instead of sounding like a judgment. Let our minds be set on the Spirit of Christ and let us walk away from this darkness into the light where God is waiting. God bless and keep you. Amen. **Prayer and benediction:** Dear Lord, please fill us with Your Spirit now... Protect us all, deliver us from evil and strengthen our faith in You Fill us with love for You and one another, now and always. Give us Your peace... May the grace of God, and the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever Amen

Opportunity Abounds
Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly of God

Allow me to open with a quote from a preacher of years-gone-by named Leonard Ravenhill: "Take the opportunity of a lifetime during the lifetime of the opportunity." What does this mean? Quite simply, there are times in life when doors of opportunity open, and we must pass through them while we may. Should we delay, said doors may well close—and the opportunities which they presented might be forever lost. What is taking place in our nation right now is—for each of us—a once-in-a-century event. You would likely have to be over 100-years old to remember a pandemic that caused this degree of social disruption and lock-down. Thus, for many, this is a time of unprecedented concern and crisis.

However, this is also an incredible period of opportunity for each of us—if we have the wisdom to recognize the open doors before us and the courage to step through them. Let us have the good sense to take the opportunity of a lifetime during the lifetime of this opportunity! You may be asking, "Pastor, what opportunities lie before us?" Great question. I am so glad that you asked. Allow me to elaborate... Firstly, this period in history affords us the opportunity to CALL out to God in prayer. One of the most common reasons people cite for not taking the time to pray is a lack of time. Our culture—particularly in New England—is so fast-paced that many feel like they have no time to spare! Yet time is now the one thing everyone seems to have an abundance of. As many are sheltering in place, it is the one commodity most of us have for the first time (seemingly) in our lives. Why not make this once-in-a-lifetime moment your opportunity to call out to God in prayer? Of course, many may not know what to pray. Allow me to offer the following: a) pray for this nation (2 Chronicles 7:14); b) pray for those in need and for our earthly leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4); and c) pray for your own needs (Matthew 6:11; 7:8-8). Let the preceding verses guide and inspire you! Secondly, this period in history affords us the opportunity to CONSIDER biblical teaching. Once again, people justify their negligence of scriptural study by citing their lack of time. Yet many are now looking for ways to pass the time. Why not take that Bible off of your mantle or bookshelf and start reading? As an unknown author once stated: This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct

you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity. Of course, I understand that, for many, the Bible can be an intimidating book. "Where do I even start?" some may ask. If you are new to God's Word, I would recommend beginning in one of the four Gospels (i.e., the accounts of Christ's birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection)—perhaps the Gospel of Mark. You could also access the many sermons posted online at www.NewLifeBarre.org (or any other Bible-based fellowship). Thirdly, this period in history affords us the opportunity to CARE for one another. Consider the following statement made by Franklin Graham (son of Billy Graham): Many years ago, the great writer and theologian, A.W. Tozer, made this profound statement, "A scared world needs a fearless church." That is so true. During this time with the coronavirus, fear is gripping the hearts of people around the world. There is a mountain of anxiety and alarm, and it is still building. It is as real as the virus itself—but it is treatable. There are people in need that we can reach out to help. Like a fireman runs to the fire, the church needs to respond to crises around us. We who are the church need to stand up and be the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. During these days of less group activity and gatherings, we could all take time to call and check on the elderly or others who are alone. Maybe

you could offer to drop off some food or necessities they might need. Talking with someone on the phone, listening to what they are going through, and most importantly, praying with them, could change not only their day, but their entire outlook. We need to share the "reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). Jesus Christ is our hope, our anchor, our comfort, and our peace. Let's share His love with as many people as we can, making every day count. Christians, God can use you. The virus isn't the only thing that's contagious. What if we had an outbreak of people helping people and a sweeping eruption of prayer? Finally, this moment affords us the opportunity to CAST ourselves upon the Lord. Do you feel the weight of shame and guilt? Cast yourself upon One who is merciful (Isaiah 1:18). Do you feel weak and weary? Cast yourself upon the One who gives strength (Isaiah 40:28-31). Do you face lack or deprivation? Cast yourself upon the One who provides (Philippians 4:19). Do you feel the grip of fear? Cast yourself upon the One who offers peace (John 14:27). Do you feel hopeless? Cast yourself upon the One who gives hope (Psalm 42:5). Do you feel vulnerable? Cast yourself upon the One who protects (Psalm 18:2). Do you feel alone? Cast yourself upon the God who is so near (Hebrews 13:5). What will you do with the opportunities that abound all around you? I challenge you to embrace the words of Ravenhill: "Take the opportunity of a lifetime during the lifetime of the opportunity." As always, I invite you to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org and contact us at your leisure. Also, feel free to tune in for our Sunday Morning Service livestream through our New Life Barre Facebook page. May the Lord be with you all!

Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly of God

Tri-Parish Community Church news

Like everything in our current world, almost all of our "normal" daily functions have come to a standstill, including at the Tri-Parish Community Church. Right now, no church services are planned until Easter, April 12 at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Congregational Church. Until then, those who have pledged or want to make a donation to

the Church, can send them to the office at P.O. Box 202, 3 Oakham Road, New Braintree, MA, 01531. However, the Tri-Parish committee did meet on March 18, to discuss future activities at the church. The plan for the 15th Annual plant/bake/tag and craft sale is still going forward for Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

on the Hardwick Town Common. 10' by 10' spaces will also be available for anyone wishing to join in for a fee of \$30. Applications can be obtained by calling the church office at 508-867-3306. To get further information on what is happening at the Tri-Parish, the website is: triparishcommunitychurch.com. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

<p>Sunday, March 22 9:21 a.m. Disturbance, Person(s) Oak Street – Officer Spoke to Party 12:29 p.m. Welfare Check Cedar Street – Officer Spoke to Party 1:53 p.m. Breaking and Entering Past Auto/Motor Vehicle Broad Street – No Police Service Necessary 8:43 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Barre – Confirmed Misdial</p> <p>Monday, March 23 7:42 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent West Street – Dispatch Handled 8:55 a.m. Traffic Hazard Vernon Avenue – Removed Hazard 11:12 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Old Coldbrook Road – Information Taken 11:34 a.m. Fraud Pleasant Street – Officer Advised 4:42 p.m. Snow Removal Complaint Cedar Street – Vehicle Removed</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24 9:25 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency James Street – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25 2:08 a.m. Animal Complaint Worcester Road – Negative Contact 6:13 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Nichols Road –</p>	<p>Transported to Hospital 3:36 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Worcester Road – Transported to Hospital 7:10 p.m. Community Policing South Barre Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>Thursday, March 26 7:37 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Nichols Road – Officer Spoke to Party 11:17 a.m. Animal ACO Call Adams Road – Information Given 11:19 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Dana Road – Transported to Hospital 2:04 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Old Dana Road – Transported to Hospital 4:58 p.m. Fire, Mutual Aid Ambulance Oakham – Ambulance Canceled 8:17 p.m. Be On The Lookout Notification Wheelwright Road – Negative Contact</p> <p>Friday, March 27 8:16 a.m. Animal Lost and/or Found Old Hardwick Road – Animal Returned to Owner 9:56 a.m. Fire, Illegal Burn Pleasant Street – No Fire Service Necessary 10:29 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency High Street North – Transported to Hospital 10:50 a.m. Recreational Vehicle</p>	<p>Complaint James Street – Gone On Arrival 10:52 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Unknown – Services Rendered 1:18 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Nichols Road – Area Search Negative 1:30 p.m. Complaint South Street – Officer Advised 5:16 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Fruitland Road – Referred to Other Agency</p> <p>Saturday, March 28 8:36 a.m. Disturbance, Person(s) Cedar Street – Property Returned 10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic West Street – Officer Advised 3:26 p.m. Recreation Vehicle Complaint South Barre Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>SOUTH BARRE Sunday, March 22 2:54 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Oakham Road – Officer Advised</p> <p>Monday, March 23 10:44 a.m. Property Lost and Found North Brookfield Road – Information Taken</p> <p>Saturday, March 28 9:38 a.m. Neighbor Dispute Oak Street – Officer Spoke to Party</p>
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Rutland Police Log

<p>Sunday, March 22 3:05 p.m. Illegal Dumping Pommogussett Road – Officer Spoke to Party 5:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Suspicious Central Tree Road – Investigated</p> <p>Monday, March 23 12:38 a.m. Disturbance, Noise Complaint Central Tree Road – Officer Spoke to Party 2:51 a.m. Officer Wanted Maple Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party 2:22 p.m. Fire, Illegal Burn Maple Avenue – No Fire Service Necessary 4:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disable Wachusett Street – Vehicle Removed 4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Maple Avenue – Vehicle Removed 6:29 p.m. Harassment Maple Avenue – Officer Advised 10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Pommogussett Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 24 3:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Bear Hill Drive – Services Rendered 9:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Irish Lane – Officer Spoke to Party 10:55 a.m. Gunshots Cheryl Ann Drive – Area Search Negative</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25 12:55 a.m. Suspicious Person Main Street – Area Search Negative 9:51 a.m. Open Door/Window Maple Avenue – Dispatch Handled</p> <p>Thursday, March 26 5:52 a.m. Suspicious Person Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party 10:06 a.m. Alarm Residential Main Street – Investigated 1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Pedestrian/Bicyclist Wachusett Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal 2:37 p.m. Fraud Jackson Avenue – Report Filed 5:11 p.m. Suspicious Person Maple Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party</p>	<p>7:17 p.m. Welfare Check Main Street – Report Filed</p> <p>Friday, March 27 9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning 12:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Pommogussett Road – No Police Service Necessary 6:56 p.m. Gunshots Wheeler Road – Investigated 7:19 p.m. Fire, Illegal Burn Orchard Hill Drive – Fire Extinguished</p> <p>Saturday, March 28 9:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Victoria Avenue – Vehicle Removed 10:57 a.m. Animal ACO Call Julie Ann Circle – Area Search Negative 5:28 p.m. Disturbance, Person(s) Maple Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>Sunday, March 29 5:59 a.m. Officer Wanted Barre Paxton Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p>
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Bankers association encourages consumers to bank electronically

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Bankers Association announced banks throughout the Commonwealth will remain open while keeping their customers and employees safe. According to Governor Charlie Baker’s order issued earlier today, financial institutions such as banks are considered essential services and will not be subject to the closure.

“While we strongly encourage all Massachusetts residents to heed the Governor’s stay at home advisory and use online or mobile banking, consumers will continue to have access to banking services during the mandatory non-essential business closure,” said Daniel J. Forte, MBA President and CEO. “The safest place for your money right now is in your local bank where it is insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Many Massachusetts banks also have excess insurance to protect your funds.”

Consumers needing access to banking services should check with their institution, as many banks have closed branch lobbies, reduced hours or shifted to drive-through only at some locations in an effort to protect their customers and employees. However, bank staff are available to serve customers and answer questions. In addition, access to funds through online and mobile banking, ATMs and at Point of Sale transactions remains available during this time.

The Massachusetts Bankers Association represents 135 commercial, savings, cooperative and federal savings banks and savings and loan associations with approximately \$380 billion in local assets, 72,000 employees across Massachusetts and New England, over 2,000 banking locations, more than 4,500 ATMs, and donate more than \$105 million annually to social agencies and charitable organizations across the Commonwealth. For more information, people may visit www.massbankers.org.

LOCAL

Opportunity

IS KNOCKING

STAFF WRITER POSITION



Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quabog Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Public Notice

NOTICE
Town of New Braintree
The Public Planning Board/Gravel Hearing that was to be held in the Town of New Braintree on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00pm is **CANCELED** and will be held at a later date.
4/02/2020

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Oakham Police Log

<p>Tuesday, March 17 9:12 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Adams Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>Wednesday, March 18 10:11 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Rutland Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal 12:07 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Rutland Road – Referred to Other Agency 10:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>Friday, March 20 11:04 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Bechan Road – Referred to Other Agency</p> <p>Saturday, March 21 7:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old</p>	<p>Turnpike Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>Sunday, March 22 2:54 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Oakham Road – Officer Spoke to Party 4:25 p.m. Officer Wanted Barre Road – Officer Spoke to Party 7 p.m. Welfare Check Rutland Road – Located/Found</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24 11:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled South Road – Officer Spoke to Party 12:23 p.m. Animal Lost and/or Found Old Turnpike Road – Message Delivered</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25 11:11 a.m. Custody Dispute North Brookfield Road – Officer Took Call</p>	<p>Thursday, March 26 11:59 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Bechan Road – Referred to Other Agency 4:55 p.m. Animal Bite Adams Road – Transported to Hospital 8:23 p.m. Unoccupied Vehicle Old Turnpike Road – Message Delivered</p> <p>Friday, March 27 11:58 a.m. Animal ACO Call New Braintree Road – Information Given 12:43 p.m. Fraud New Braintree Road – Report Filed 5:42 p.m. Welfare Check Rutland Road – Located/Found 6:34 p.m. Identity Theft New Braintree Road – Services Rendered</p>
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Hubbardston Police Log

<p>Sunday, March 22 2:07 p.m. Suspicious Activity Williamsville Road – Area Search Negative 2:14 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency High Bridge Road – Transported to Hospital 6:41 p.m. Fire, Brush Old Princeton Road – Fire Extinguished</p> <p>Monday, March 23 7:02 a.m. Fraud Adams Road – Officer Advised 4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident New Westminster Road – Report Filed 6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Worcester Road – Vehicle Removed</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 24 7:10 p.m. Animal Lost and/or Found West Comet Pond Access Road – Officer Advised</p> <p>Thursday, March 26 12:33 p.m. Animal ACO Call Forest Drive – Officer Advised 4:21 p.m. Community Policing Old Boston Turnpike – Services Rendered 5:04 p.m. Community Policing Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party 5:13 p.m. Community Policing Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party 5:40 p.m. Community Policing Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party 10:28 p.m. Suspicious Person</p>	<p>Hale Road – Negative Contact</p> <p>Friday, Marcy 27 6:45 p.m. Community Policing Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party 6:52 p.m. Community Policing Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>Saturday, March 28 2:10 a.m. Officer Wanted Williamsville Road – Officer Spoke to Party 4:31 a.m. Fire, Structure Barre Road – Fire Extinguished 8:47 a.m. Gunshot Old Boston Turnpike – Report Filed 5:11 p.m. Suspicious Person Gardner Road – Services Rendered</p>
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Hardwick Police Log

<p>Monday, March 23 12:29 p.m. 911 – Misdial Mellon Road – Spoken To 4 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital 7:32 p.m. 911 – Gun Shots Barre Road – Unfounded 9:37 p.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Barre Road – Report Taken</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24 8:20 a.m. 911- Medical Emergency Barre Road – Transported to Hospital 8:58 a.m. Phone – Alarm Spring Street – Services Rendered 9:28 a.m. 911 – Misdial Mellon</p>	<p>Road – Dispatch Handled 10:29 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital 3:56 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25 9:34 a.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Church Lane – Spoken To 1:41 p.m. 911 – Misdial Old Petersham Road – False Alarm 2:44 p.m. Other – Trespass Greenwich Road – Officer Handled 4:04 p.m. 911 – Misdial Delargy Road – Services Rendered</p>	<p>7:19 p.m. Phone – 911/Hang-up Barre Road – Spoken To</p> <p>Thursday, March 26 4:10 p.m. Radio – Complaint Barre Road – Spoken To</p> <p>Friday, March 27 1 p.m. Initiated – Community Policing – Services Rendered 8:20 p.m. 911 – Trespass Barre Road – Services Rendered</p> <p>Sunday, March 29 11:34 a.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Church Lane – False Alarm</p>
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New Braintree Police Log

<p>Monday, March 23 10:28 a.m. 911 – Disabled Motor Vehicle Barr Road – Services Rendered</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24 1:10 p.m. 911 – Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations West Brookfield Road – Negative Contact</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25</p>	<p>6:27 p.m. 911 – Suspicious Activity Webb Road – Investigated 7:14 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call West Brookfield Road – Could Not Locate</p> <p>Thursday, March 26 8:42 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barre Road – Transported to Hospital 9:11 p.m. 911 – Burglary (Breaking</p>	<p>and Entering) Hardwick Road – Investigated</p> <p>Saturday, March 28 11:12 a.m. 911 – Fire, Brush Hardwick Road – Extinguished</p> <p>Sunday, March 29 4:09 p.m. 911 – Misdial Harrington Road – Investigated</p>
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Consumers facing financial hardships urged to contact their banks

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Bankers Association urged consumers, who are facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to contact their financial institution for assistance. Local banks throughout the Commonwealth have pledged to work with their customers, individuals and businesses, to mitigate the financial impact of the current health crisis.

“We strongly encourage anyone who is unable to make a payment on their loan, needs access to funds in a certificate of deposit or other relief to contact their financial institution for options to help them through this unprecedented situation,” said Daniel J. Forte, MBA President and CEO. “Local banks are ready and willing to help during these challenging times, but it is important that you reach out as soon as possible.”

Most local banks have already announced programs to assist consumers. For example, Greenfield Cooperative Bank is offering a “payment holiday” for residential and commercial loan customers; Berkshire Bank has established special relief programs for the LGBTQ and minority-owned business communities while Rockland Trust Company, Eastern Bank, Bank of America and many others have announced significant initiatives to support local residents and small businesses. MBA has created a COVID-19 Resource page on its website at www.massbank.org with additional information.

In addition to relief on mortgages and other loans, banks are working with customers, who may need access to funds in Certificates of Deposit (CDs), waiving fees for certain products or transactions and increasing daily debit or ATM limits where appropriate. Banks anticipate that additional programs will be developed in the coming days and weeks to assist individuals and businesses as Congress considers a major economic stimulus package in Washington, D.C.

It is also important that consumers beware of scams and fraud, which tend to increase in uncertain times. MBA reminds consumers that the safest place for money is in their bank, where all accounts are insured up to \$250,000. Many Massachusetts banks also have excess insurance to protect their funds. Large cash withdrawals are uninsured and at risk for loss; 95 percent of all transactions can be done on mobile/online banking, debit/credit cards or at an ATM, without the health risks of in-lobby visits.

“These are challenging times for Massachusetts families and businesses and local banks are doing our part to help ease the financial burden,” Forte said.

The Massachusetts Bankers Association represents 135 commercial, savings, cooperative and federal savings banks and savings and loan associations with approximately \$380 billion in local assets, 72,000 employees across Massachusetts and New England, over 2,000 banking locations, more than 4,500 ATMs and donate more than \$105 million annually to social agencies and charitable organizations across the Commonwealth. For more information, people may visit www.massbankers.org.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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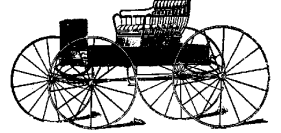
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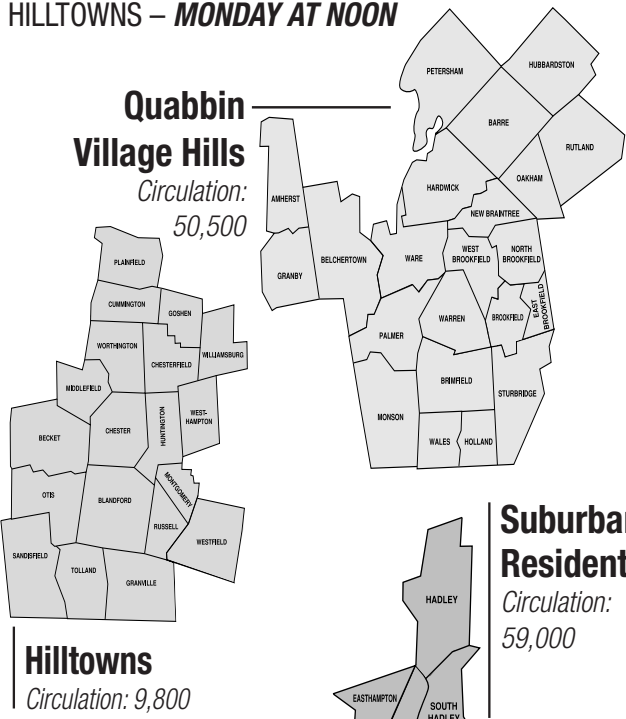
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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NBSB participates in FHLBB Jobs for New England program

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Saving Bank (NBSB) is participating in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston's (FHLBB) Jobs for New England (JNE) program, which allows the NBSB Business Center to offer below market-rate, low-interest financing for small business loans that create or preserve jobs, expand woman-owned, minority-owned or veteran-owned businesses or otherwise stimulate the local economy.

"The FHLBB Jobs for New England program is such a valuable tool for our small businesses and allows North Brookfield Savings Bank the opportunity to

provide our small business customers with even lower interest financing so they can borrow for less and grow their business," said Rick Egan, vice president, senior commercial lender. "This further supports our goal to support small businesses and the local economy that we serve."

As a member of the FHLBB, North Brookfield Savings Bank can offer members extremely low percentage financing for small business loans that meet certain criteria set by the FHLBB. The small business loan funds must be utilized to create or preserve jobs, expand woman-owned, minority-owned or veteran-owned businesses or support

the local economy in another quantifiable way. The program includes two funding periods with the first application period in January and the second period beginning April 29.

Recently, North Brookfield Savings Bank partnered with Jessica Bettencourt, president and owner of the well-known Klem's department store located on Route 9 in Spencer. She has a vision for her family's business and when she approached North Brookfield Savings Bank to share her expansion goals for the Klem's building she was recommended a financing option that provided the most value to her business. Due to NBSB

being a FHLBB member and Bettencourt's goals to expand a women-owned business, she was able to take advantage of the Jobs for New England program. NBSB's guidance allowed her to benefit from the program and see the expansion goals become a reality.

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, and Three Rivers Village of Palmer. For additional information, people may call 1-866-711-6272 or visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

QRSD offers free meals to go at selected schools

REGION – The Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) has plans in place to ensure students, who rely on their schools for breakfast and lunch continue to receive that service.

Walk-up distribution of daily prepared meals at selected school sites for families to pick up will be available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. until school reopens. These meals will be available for free for anyone 18 and under regardless of what school

they attend. Each child will receive a breakfast and lunch.

Families can access meals from either location listed: Hardwick Elementary School (no pin required) or Quabbin Middle & High School (will need 4 digit pin# or student name).

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